

The Norman Conquest

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and strength. But quarrels broke out between the commander and his troops; the Normans and Norsemen, dissatisfied, over the question of pay and plunder, went back to Apulia, and Maniaces'

recall left Sicily to the Moslems again,

Their acquaintance with the Greeks gave the

Normans little respect for their soldierly qualities.

William of Apulia describes Arduin as elaborating

to the Normans at A versa the story of his own

wrongs and the effeminacy of the contemptible

Byzantines. Why should so desirable land as

Apulia be left to a race so feeble?—such was his

argument, appealing at once to the Norman self-

conceit and the Norman cupidity, *

The flames of revolt were not yet quenched in

the Greek province, Arduin and Rainulf put

themselves into touch with the Lomlmd rebels,

and undertook the expulsion of the Byzantines

from Apulia, with an object which they did not re-

veal to the insurgents, in 1040 they seized Venosa

and Melfi, building a strong fortress at the latter,

and mustering there five hundred knights in all.

The joint army of Lombards and Normans took

the field in the spring of 1041; near where the

stream of the Olivento joins the Ofanto

they faced
the army of the Catapan Doceanus and
though he

»Quill. Ap.» bk. I., p. 333,
"AppuUt! inuUnatUe cum term sit
utIUUitto
P«em»n«i grteeiti t?ur pennittfttur haberf?"
Arduin, who WM a Lombard by nation, had
itptmrently been